GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:824
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
MINI-MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF TRADE MINISTERS
SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to host a mini-ministerial conference of trade ministers in March, 2003 to discuss the agenda for the Cancum ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries which have shown keen interest to discuss the proposal; and

(d) the salient features of the proposed agenda prepared by India for discussion?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a)-(d): There is no proposal by Government of India to hold a Mini-Ministerial Conference of Trade Ministers in March 2003.

However, the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), a private body of business leaders from the Commonwealth countries, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has planned to hold a Commonwealth Trade Summit in New Delhi from 15-16 March 2003. The Commerce and Industry Ministry on their request has issued an invitation letter to the Trade Ministers for attending the Conference. This Summit, being organized by two trade bodies is not a Mini-Ministerial Conference of WTO, given the inter-governmental character of the WTO.